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R 290420Z AUG 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9310
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS SAIGON 13886

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izgulen DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE CENTRAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

REF: SAIGON 13849

1. SEMI-OFFICIAL VIET-NAM PRESS AND LOCAL DAILIES REPORT CENTRAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE MET AUGUST 27 WITH ACTING MINISTER OF INTERIOR LE CONG CHAT TEMPORARILY PRESIDING SINCE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE NOT YET NAMED AS CHAIRMAN. KY SLATE REPRESENTATIVE DID NOT ATTEND, A FACT THE THIEU SLATE REPRESENTATIVE ASKED BE NOTED IN THE RECORD BEING SUBMITTED TO THE SU REME COURT. AN ELECTION INFORMATION CENTTER SOURCE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT EACH PRESIDENTIAL SLATE WILL RECEIVE FROM THE NATIONAL BUDGET MORE THAN 21 MILLION PIASTERS FOR CAMPAIGN EXPENSES AND THAT POSTERS, LEAFLETS AND BALLOTS WILL BE PRINTED STARTING THE 29TH. THE SOURCE IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THE COMMITTEE WOULD START OPERATIONS AUGUST 28 "TO ADVANCE THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION."

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2. PRESS REPORTS ADD THAT AT THE SAME HOUR THE COMMITTEE WAS MEETING, THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT ISSUED A RELEASE COMMENTING ON THE INVITATION TO THE SLATE TO ATTEND THE MEETING. RECALLING KY'S EARLIER MESSAGE TO THE COMMITTEE AUGUST 24 (REFTEL). THE RELEASE ASSERTED AGAIN THAT THE SLATE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE "UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND ILLEGAL" PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND WOULD NOT COOPERATE WITH THE SUPREME COURT IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTION.
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